# Newsletter July – September 2012

# Congratulations to Our NVBA Players Representing Our District in the GNT Finals At the Philadelphia NABC!

e are thrilled to report that District 6 (D6) will be well represented by NVBA players in the Grand National Team competition at the Summer NABC in Philadelphia. NVBA members Robert Hopkins, Jr., Rusty Krauss, John Miller, and Stephen Drodge were on the team that won the Championship competition against some top-level teams who have many National and international event wins under their belt. Very impressive! Even more impressive is that Rusty Krauss, John Miller, and Stephen Drodge were also on the team that won the Flight A GNT District 6 competition. Under the rules of contest, Krauss, Miller and Drodge will play in the championship competition in Philadelphia, and their other teammates will choose qualified D6 players to fill out their team in the GNT Flight A National Finals. We wish them all luck!

Just as impressive is the young team that won the D6 Flight C GNT Finals. On that team is NVBA's up and coming nationally-known Youth player David Soukup. David and his regular partner Hakan Berk and teammates Sylvia Shi and Alexander Prairie look forward to representing the District at the NABC. Here is an interesting hand that David played that helped his team win the Flight C competition.

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#### Of Special Interest:

- Bethesda, MD REGIONAL, Jul. 2-8
- Philadelphia, PA Summer NABC, Jul. 12-22
- Hunt Valley, MD REGIONAL, Aug. 13-19
- WBL Sectional, Aug. 2-5
- Atlanta, GA REGIONAL, Aug. 28 – Sep. 3
- NVBA Sectional, Sep. 6-9
- WBL NLM Sectional, Sep. 22-23
- WBL Sectional, Sep. 27-30
- D6 STaC, Oct. 1-7
- D6 NAP Finals, Oct. 13-14

## **NVBA** Newsletter

#### **VOLUNTEERS WELCOME** By Mike Cappelletti NVBA President



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am happy to report that the NVBA is doing well financially, and we will not be raising our entry fees in the near future. I played in a NY Regional in May and was somewhat shocked to find that entry fees were \$20 a session.

Attendance at our Unit Game (Thursday nights) is up. We just had over 50 tables at our LM/NLM game on June 7! It was great to see all that participation. We are very fortunate to have a number of dedicated volunteers helping things run smoothly. However, with Linda Dick (and Jim) moving to Houston, we are without a regular "goodies

person" to bring in snacks (just food, not beverages) to our Thursday night Unit Game. This job usually requires a single stop at a supermarket or Costco, and then transporting the goodies to the Unit Game on Thursday night. We can also provide you with an assistant (another volunteer). Of course you get reimbursed for whatever you spend, and you get two free entries to the Thursday night game. So if anyone is interested in volunteering for one or more Thursday nights, please see either Leo Cardillo or me. Your fellow bridge players will be very grateful (and less hungry).

Congratulations to Our NVBA Players continued from page 1

Interesting Squeeze Found by David Soukup during D6 Flight C GNT Finals

North: ♠K98 ♥A432 ♦Q10 ♣Q432

West: ♠A43 ♥Q10 ♦K74 ♣109875

East: ♠QJ1075 ♥65 ♦J865 ♣AK

#### South: ♠62 ♥KJ987 ♦A932 ♣J6

After a competitive auction in which East bid spades, we ended up in 4 with South as declarer. West led the  $\clubsuit A$  and switched to a club, won by East as I made the falsecard of the  $\clubsuit J$ . East, taken in, returned a diamond, ducked to West's  $\bigstar K$ , the third trick for the defense. West then played another diamond and the  $\blacklozenge Q$  held the trick. Even though the defenders had not taken their good club and the  $\blacklozenge Q$  came down after two rounds of trump, the contract seemed hopeless, as there was no obvious way to discard the club loser from either declarer or dummy's hand.

Two chances still existed; the  $\blacklozenge J$  could be ruffed out, or East could be forced to retain stoppers in diamonds, spades, and clubs. Thus, I ruffed a diamond in dummy; when this failed to drop the  $\blacklozenge J$ , I cashed my trumps and the  $\blacklozenge A$ , discarding all dummy's clubs. In the three-card ending, East held only the  $\blacklozenge QJ$  and  $\blacklozenge J$ . With West's hand now immaterial, East had to unguard one of the pointed suits, leaving me with ten tricks.

(David Soukup is also on a team that won a youth competition to go to World Youth Championship in China in late July – see separate article that follows.)

# **Upcoming NVBA Unit Games & Special Events**

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Jul. 5 Beth El – 7:00 CLOSED – Bethesda Regional

Jul. 12 Beth El – 7:00 Stratiflighted Unit Championship

Jul. 19 Beth El – 7:00 Stratified Unit Championship

Jul. 26 Beth El – 7:00 Stratiflighted North American Pairs (NAP)

Aug. 2 Beth El – 7:00 WBL Sectional – Stratiflighted Pairs

Aug. 9 Beth El – 7:00 Stratiflighted North American Pairs (NAP)

Aug. 16 Beth El – 7:00 Stratified Unit Championship

Aug. 23 Beth El – 7:00 Stratiflighted North American Pairs (NAP)

Aug. 30 Beth El – 7:00 Stratiflighted Unit Championship

Sep. 6 Beth El – 7:00 NVBA Sectional – Stratiflighted Pairs

Sep. 13 Beth El – 7:00 Stratiflighted Unit Championship or Bracketed KO

Sep. 20 Beth El – 7:00 Stratiflighted Membership Game

Sep. 27 Beth El- 7:00 WBL Sectional - Stratiflighted Pairs

# **Stratification Limits**

All NVBA Unit Games include a separate Stratified 199er game. For the North American Pairs qualifying games, the stratification is: 0-500 (NLM), 500-2000, 2000+.

# **Upcoming Sectionals**

<u>NVBA</u>

September 6-9, 2012 October 25-28, 2012 WBL August 2-5, 2012 September 27-30, 2012

For information on Tournaments – Cancellations – Special Events – Club games NVBA on the Internet: <u>http://www.nvba.org</u>

# The Jack of Hearts

#### By Marshall Kuschner



It was the ACBL's 75th anniversary so it seemed right to hold the Spring NABC in Memphis, longtime home of our headquarters. Sadly, Memphis was not a gracious hostess. Oh, the ambience was pleasant, there were some good restaurants, and the downtown area had been renewed and felt safe. The blues still reigned on Beale Street. But the city seemed rife with incompetence. Let's start with the site. The playing areas were quite nice but the restrooms were badly neglected, the flooring cracked and sporting gaping holes. As for the downtown restaurants, either no one told them we were coming or they didn't care. Slow service was almost universal and pleas of time constraints went unheeded. One night, I left without

my entree after waiting over an hour. Some mumbo-jumbo about a lost ticket. The tournament hospitality was no better. Most nights it consisted of pedestrian sand-wiches, and the one night they served cheeseburgers they ran out. Early. A sharp contrast to the abundant quality offerings last Fall in Seattle. It was clear Nadine Wood was no longer in charge.

But Memphis didn't roll out the incompetence just for us. A few blocks away you couldn't help but notice a gleaming giant pyramid. This structure, paid for with tax dollars, opened in 1991, and was billed as a state-of-the-art indoor arena. Memphis State adopted it as its basketball home. On opening night the toilets backed up because the plumbing had been installed improperly. Ten years later, the NBA's Vancouver Grizzlies expressed interest in Memphis and were assured that there was an NBA-ready home. Nobody checked. When the Grizzlies arrived, the Pyramid was found lacking and the cost of upgrading it exceeded the cost of a new arena. The Fedex Forum was built and less than twenty years after it opened, the Pyramid closed its doors.

Still, there were plusses. The oldtime trolleys, which ran up and down Main Street, ferried players to and from dinner. They were so crowded they allowed us to get to know our fellow players better, in some cases better than we would have liked. The Riverfront trolley, which only ran northbound on Main, looped around the Pyramid and traveled south along the Mississippi, affording a nice view of the river. Perhaps the biggest plus, though, was the new headquarters in Horn Lake MS. Only about 17 miles from downtown Memphis it houses a small but impressive bridge museum, featuring antique bridge equipment, including an archaic dealing machine, and videos of bridge luminaries, past and present. If you're ever in the area, it's well worth seeing.

Even greater plusses were found on the fields of friendly strife. The NVBA trio of Vonnie Lavender, Ann Lindley, and Monique Smith finished third in the Women's Swiss. Even more impressive was the fact that they were the only one of the top six teams that wasn't a client/pro team. Nicely done, ladies! Not to be outdone (by much), Jeff Roman finished fifth in the IMP Pairs before a 12th in the Open Swiss, while Ellen and John Glynn were 9th in the Mixed Pairs. Others with national overalls were Stan Schenker and David Milton (IMP Pairs), Bruce Houston and Ken Davis (Silver Ribbon), Avril and David Rodney (Silver Ribbon), Srinivas Kachibatla and John Montgomery (Red Ribbon), Deb Dhar (Flight B NAP), Jeff Roman (Vanderbilt), and Ai-Tai Lo (Open Swiss). Our only regional winners were George Parkins and Bruce Houston, both in KOs. Me? I followed suit in the best Memphian tradition. I achieved a high level of incompetence.

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# **Upcoming 199er Unit Games**

I	ul. 5 Beth E	1 – 7:00 CLC	SED –Bethesd	a Regional
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Jul. 12 Beth El – 7:00 199er Stratified Unit Championship

Jul. 19 Beth El – 7:00 199er Stratified Unit Championship

Jul. 26 Beth El – 7:00 199er Stratified Pairs Game

Aug. 2 Beth El – 7:00 WBL Sectional – 199er Pairs Game

Aug. 9 Beth El – 7:00 199er Stratified Club Championship

Aug. 16 Beth El – 7:00 199er Stratified Unit Championship

Aug. 23 Beth El – 7:00 199er Stratified Pairs Game

Aug. 30 Beth El – 7:00 199er Stratified Unit Championship

Sep. 6 Beth El – 7:00 NVBA Sectional – 199er Pairs Game

Sep. 13 Beth El – 7:00 199er Stratified Unit Championship or Bracketed KO

Sep. 20 Beth El – 7:00 199er Stratified Membership Pairs Game

Sep. 27 Beth El – 7:00 WBL Sectional – 199er Pairs Game

# **Stratification Limits**

All NVBA Unit Games include a separate Stratified 199er game. Players with 0-5 MPs play free every Thursday in all scheduled events.

# **Upcoming Sectionals**

<u>NVBA</u>

September 6-9, 2012 October 25-28, 2012 WBL August 2-5, 2012 September 27-30, 2012

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# In Memoriam

#### In Memory of Don Hennings, 1950 – 2012

Don Hennings, a long-time bridge player in the Washington DC area, passed away at home on May 16 after a brief bout with pancreatic cancer. He fought bravely and without complaint from the time of his diagnosis in January, enduring pain that would have made many of us give up much sooner. Don was a Gold Life Master who valued play in national events above amassing master points since his goal was always to play well in competition against the best. He won many regional events, placed well in numerous NABC events and played in World Championships on several occasions. His love of the game and his popularity as a partner was evident from the laughter that always surrounded his table. In addition, Don provided tremendous moral and able-bodied support to Margot, his wife and long-time tournament chair of Sectionals, Regionals and NABCs in the DC area. He lugged supplies and ran errands for the Sectionals, and his smile and bartending skills graced the hospitality suite at the 4th of July Regionals and at the NABCs held in Washington in 1993, 2002 and 2009.

Despite his illness, Don continued his employment as a Senior Mechanical Engineer with URS Corporation through April, having retired from the mechanical engineering company in which he was a Senior Partner and CFO from 1980 until 2005. Drafted in 1970 out of college, Don fought in Vietnam and received a Purple Heart in 1971. He went on to graduate from California Polytechnic State University in 1975. He was an avid collector of fine wines, loved sailing and travel and was a staunch supporter of Wolf Trap.

Don is survived by his wife Margot, who is the current representative for District 6 on the ACBL Board of Directors, his son Shannon, daughter-in-law Amy, and 2 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> year-old granddaughter Malia, as well as two brothers, all from California. A close friend in Virginia has written "If we measure a man by his family and friends, Don Hennings was a hundred times full...The army of loved ones who came to call forged a hospice of friendship and love and were witness to the remarkable grace Don demonstrated during those last impossible days...I am fiercely proud to call him friend."

# Local Teens Headed to World <sup>By Ray Soukup</sup> Youth Tournament in China

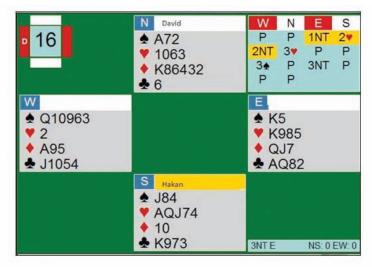
ourteen-year olds David Soukup of Arlington VA, Hakan Berk of Potomac MD and their teammates pulled out a razor-thin 5 IMP win in a 64-board match against a youth team from Georgia. That earned them a spot on the USA under-21 team that will play in 2012 World Youth Championships in Tai Cang, China from July 25 – August 5. The match was the second of two day-long events involving youth teams that took place on Bridge Base Online and involved players from all over the country. The USA contingent in Tai Cang will consist of 30 youth players and 7 coaches, including two under-21 teams, two under-26 teams, and a Women's under-26 team.

David and Hakan are well known to most NVBA and WBL players who have seen them develop from 9-year old beginners to 14-year old veterans of Sectional, Regionals, and Nationals. They teamed up with two 13-year olds from Minnesota and Col-

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orado to win the Youth Team event in Toronto this summer, earning them both \$1000 scholarships. With scholarships and free trips to places such as China available to youth willing to enter the competitions, those of us who support youth bridge need to let the kids and parents know that there are definitely some "goodies" out there for the taking! Our local units can also take credit for helping to develop the talents of other young players such as Stephen Drodge, Dan Emmons and David Banh.

Here's David's analysis of one of the hands from the event:



This was the last hand of the close first quarter, and we were all starting to feel tired. Over East's 15-17 notrump opener,  $2\Psi$  showed hearts and a minor. After 2NT by West, Lebensohl, I tried to disturb the opponents' sequence with  $3\Psi$ . West balanced with  $3\Phi$ , and East, with a good stopper in hearts, but a minimum hand, pushed on to 3NT.

The defense was quick and sharp. Partner led the  $\P7$ : two, ten, king. Declarer played a low spade towards dummy and did well to insert the  $\clubsuit10$ , but it was too late. I took the  $\clubsuitA$  and shot back the  $\P6$ . Four heart tricks later (declarer pitched a club), partner obeyed my upside-down  $\clubsuit2$  signal and played a diamond to the ace. But the spades were blocked, and declarer still had to concede tricks to the  $\clubsuit K$  and  $\clubsuit K$ . Declarer took six tricks: one spade, one heart, two diamonds, and two clubs, resulting in three down and a +300 for us.

At the other table, our teammates found themselves in 4  $\clubsuit$  by East after no opposition bidding. That contract went down very quickly: diamond to the king, diamond ruff,  $\clubsuit A$ ,  $\bigstar A$ , diamond ruff, and eventually the  $\clubsuit K$ . Seven tricks for declarer was down three – and -300. A disappointing push!

#### **NVBA** Newsletter

# **Parade of Winners**

#### NVBA SECTIONAL April 26–29, 2012

#### Thurs. AM Open Pairs (42 Pairs)

- Dalia Kende Martha Lackey
- 2 Vonnie Lavender Robert Gookin
  - 1 Bernice Hacke John Gauss
  - 2 Marvin Burstein Anthony Cincotta
  - 1 John Hornbeck Peter Mirsky
  - 2 Gretta Bordcosh Ramsey Bordcosh

#### Thurs. AM 299er Pairs (12 Pairs)

- Yuen De Anda Ron Sutter
  Dottie Terrell Mark Terrell
- 2 2 Dottie Terreir Mark Terreir

#### Thurs. Eve. A/X Pairs (69 Pairs)

1 Jay Cherlow – Albert Lauber

#### Thurs. Eve. B/C Pairs (60 Pairs)

1

1

2

- Richard Bingham Steve Reed
- 2 Onorica Luculescu Scott Simpson

#### Thurs. 199er Pairs @ NVBA (22 Pairs)

- Marguerite Salah Richard Long
- 2 1 Yuen De Anda Ron Sutter
  - I Joan Axilbund Mary Lou McMorrow
    Nancy Tarlano Rozelin Prochaska

#### Fri. Aft. A/X Pairs (36 Pairs)

- Vonnie Lavender Enid Hughes
- 1 Joan Mitchum Marjorie Gazzola
- 2/3 Bernard Oetjen J. David Grier

#### Fri. Aft. B/C Pairs (40 Pairs)

- Abigail Nichols Jay Cherlow
- 1 Donna Stoker Anne Harrington
- 2 Willis Paley Hume Gil Krawitz

#### Fri. Aft. 299er Pairs (42 Pairs)

- 1 Dev Chattopadhyay Asim Mandal
- 2 George Parkins Hannelore Suffridge
  - 1 1 Sharon Perryman Richard Padgett
  - 2 Ken Kimball Marsha Ann Brown
  - 2 Gretta Bordcosh Ramsey Bordcosh

#### Fri. Aft. 49er Pairs (10 Pairs)

- Debby Bailine Barbara Goldlust
  - Claude Rosenthal Kathryn Ward-Johnson
  - 1 Rosamond Niemeyer Betsy Deering
  - 2 Michael Corrigan Donna Hickling

#### Fri. Eve. Triple Nickel Swiss (29 Teams)

- 1 Ron Kral Bob Boyd Jay Kelkar – Zeke Letellier
- 2 Jim Dick William Zane Deborah Hoveland – William Young
- 1 1 James Gerding Joyce Wiley Georgette Weiss – Sidney Graves
- 2 2 Dennis Sponholtz Albert Stolpe Stephen Colevas – Thomas Jennings

#### Fri. Eve. 299er Pairs (16 Pairs)

- 1 1 1 Curtis Sandler Randolph Elkins
- 2 Mike Ladd Betty Ladd
  - 2 Pat Kibler Donald Smith

#### Sat. AM A/X Pairs (26 Pairs)

- 2 1 Martha Lackey Diane Alexander
- 2 Clifford Feldman Gabriele Nanda

#### Sat. AM B/C Pairs (28 Pairs)

2/3 2 John Gauss - Carolyn Baird

#### Sat. AM 299er Pairs (38 Pairs)

- 1 1 Ken Kimball Brian Brunsvold
- 2/3 2/3 1 Samir Haddad Gretta Bordcosh
  - 2 Ann Wagner Jean Feighery

#### Sat. AM 49er Pairs (14 Pairs)

- 1 Anne Shields Dorothy Seyler
- 2 1 Eric Cassel Michael Barth
  - 2 1 Linda Thomas Donna Hickling
  - 2 Sandra Novack Albert Novack

#### Sat. Compact KO - Bkt. #1 (6 Teams)

- 1 Ann Lindley Bill Pettis –
- 2 Steve Reed Steve Schatzow 2 Kevin O'Brien – Lynda Flanger –
- Helene Cooper Dave Tonnesen

#### Sat. Compact KO – Bkt. #2 (7 Teams)

- 1 John S. Mason Emerita Hayward –
- Adi Pelled Barack Peled
- 2 Albert Stolpe Tom Jennings Calvin Konner – Richard Wedgewood

#### Sat. Aft. Open Pairs (61 Pairs)

- William Zane Bob Boyd
- 1 1 Alan Munro John Hudson
- 2 Mel Yudkin John Christensen

#### Sat. Aft. 299er Pairs (44 Pairs)

- Yuen De Anda Ron Sutter 1 1 2
  - Richard Rowen Virginia Rowen
  - Bill Teer Pat Teer 2
  - 2 Asim Mandal Carol Goldstone

#### Sat. Aft. 49er Pairs (14 Pairs)

- Joyce Farley Nora Klein 1 1
- Tamara Vetter Jayne Lynch 2 2

#### Sat. Eve. Open Pairs (26 Pairs)

- Hailong Ao Fred King 1
- Ron Spieker Stephen Swearingen 2
  - 1 Mel Yudkin - John Christensen
  - 2 1 Louise Hayes Penelope Paddock
  - 2 Sidney Graves James Gerding

#### Sat. Eve. 299er Pairs (18 Pairs)

- 2 2 Walt Pumo Janice Pumo
  - 1 Curtis Sandler Randolph Elkins

#### Sun. A/X Swiss (27 Teams) 2

1

- Stan Schenker David Milton -
- Bill Cole Mark Shaw
- Ron Kral Bob Boyd -Jay Kelkar - Leo Cardillo

#### Sun. Flt. B Swiss Bkt. 1 (8 Teams)

- Dennis Schwanz Susan Miskura -1 Martha Mangano - Dave Tonnesen
- 2 Leonid Fastovsky - Mike Frosch -Thomas Crawley - Jennifer Nisenoff

#### Sun. Flt. B Swiss Bkt. 2 (8 Teams)

Susan Slattery - Youssof Seraj -Elizabeth Anderson - Benazir Ghaussy

#### Sun. Flt. B Swiss Bkt. 3 (7 Teams)

- Mike Ladd Betty Ladd -1 Glenn Terrell – Dottie Terrell
- Paul Setzer Kellen Leister -2 Sheryl McEwan – Livingston Johnson

#### Sun. AM 299er Swiss (17 Teams)

1/2 1/2 Ron Sutter - Yuen De Anda -

- Richard Padgett Sharon Perryman
- 1/2 1/2 1 Howard Stevens Helen Marek -Tamara Vetter - Javne Lynch 2 Edith Berman - Ann Wagner -David Street – Eileen Street

#### Sun. Aft. 299er Swiss (8 Teams)

- 1 1 1 Bob Hartsell Frants Lasse Becker -Jill Duvall - Warren Beeton
- Margarett Whilden Thomas Grahame -2 Dev Chattopadhyay - Raman Kelkar
  - Asim Mandal Kiran Starosta -2 William Starosta - Carol Goldstone

# **Bracketed KO Event at NVBA Unit Game**

The NVBA is offering players an opportunity to form a team (of up to 6 players) and play in a Bracketed KO starting in September on Thursday nights in conjunction with the Unit Game at Beth El in Alexandria. The cost is \$40 per match per team. Teams will be placed into a bracket according to their average masterpoint holding. This event will run from September - December with one round of the KO held each month at the Unit Game site. This is a sectional-rated black point event. The closing date for entering a team is August 30, 2012 with the first match scheduled to be held on September 13; second match to be held on October 18; the third match to be held on November 8; and the last match to be held on December 13. Mike Zane is the coordinator for this event. He has signup sheets available at local club games and the Unit Game.

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**NVBA** Newsletter

# **Annual Meeting**

The NVBA Annual Meeting held on May 10 was a great success. We said farewell to Alan Breed and Jim Dick, who we are sad to see leave the Board and voted in new members Sheryl McEwan and Lynne Beresford in their place. Ron Kral replaces Alan Breed as Vice President and Lynda Flanger is staying on for another term as Treasurer.

The annual NVBA trophies were awarded, as follows:

Man of the Year: Ken Davis Woman of the Year: Ann Lindley Duncker Rush Buckley: Fred Gramlich Rookie of the Year: Yuen de Anda

Here are some photos of the trophy winners and Mini-McKenney and Ace of Clubs winners who attended the meeting:



NVBA Man of the Year -Ken Davis with former NVBA President Leo Cardillo



NVBA Woman of the Year – Ann Lindley with former NVBA President Leo Cardillo

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Rush Buckley Award winner – Fred Gramlich with former NVBA President. Leo Cardillo



NVBA Rookie of the Year – Yuen de Anda with former NVBA President Leo Cardillo



2011 Ace of Clubs Winners: Front row: Ken Davis, Diane Cohen, George Parkins, Cliff Feldman, Ann Lindley Back row: Bob Boyd, Betsy Eliot, Jay Cherlow, Philip Tseng, Gerald McGowan, Don Geerhart, Ed Lewis

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# **NVBA** Newsletter



2011 Mini-McKenney winners: L to R: Ken Davis, Al Duncker, Wayne Bardsley, John Miller, Yuen DeAnda, Bob Boyd, Steve Colevas, Tom Jennings, George Parkins, John Gauss



New LMs in 2011 First row from left to right: Georgette Weiss, Marilyn Golias, Ann Atcheson, Jenny Shaefer Back row from left to right: Tony Robson, M. David Jackson, Cliff Feldman, Barbara Hodges, Stephen Colevas, Sheryl McEwan

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# HAIL AND FAREWELL

# We would like to welcome the following new members into our Unit:

Turner J Arndt Caren G Beeman Richard G Beeman Jessie A Busby Anders Choi Austin J Choy Marcee Craighill Edward G Danalache Alexander S Deanda Mary Jane Donahue Melody Z Fan Dr Susan K Grunin Lina He John E Henderson Donna Hickling Barbara S Hobbie Irmen Horne David Klinkhamer Cynthia S Lavoie Megan W Man Elaine M McCarty Alex McLane Eleanor A McShea Rosemary B Melnick Harris N Miller Franci E Millers Gary P Oliver Austin B Ralls Lyudmila Shuller Elliot T Simon Steve Y Tai Victor W Wang Inga K Willner James S Winn Yen Wu Jeffrey Yutzler

#### We would like to welcome the following transfers into our Unit:

Hailong Ao Catherine S Bardsley Lynne G Beresford Suzanne Briguglio Joan S Flippin Barbara A McCombie Michael J McCombie Rose McGowan John R Shannonhouse Teri Shinder Valerie Sudick William K Toufectis Linda W Vanzant Robert C Walden

# We give our regards to the following people who have transferred out of our Unit:

James S. Brackett Mary G. Espy Prem K. Gupta Ethel P. Hoffman Joel D. Mathis Ron Pierce C. Norman Wood Sheila S. Brackett Jaishree Gupta Don N. Henry Bob Kerchner Edward McKinney J.C. Rogers

#### We are sorry to note the passing of three of our members: R. Een

Don Hennings Oscar Morgenstern

**NVBA** Newsletter

# MILESTONES

Congratulations to the following players who have reached these new milestones!

#### **♦♦ NEW JUNIOR MASTERS ♣♥** David C. Bear

Peter S. Adam Libby Eckert Wayne Gibbens Armanda Henders Anita R. Lancaste Dr. Hilda Meth Joyce Perl John H. Schoeberl Donna Sinrud Kathy G. Sullivan Nancy Turaj Hongbing Zhang

	8
son	
er	David Lindley
	Linda K. Moncrief
	Kermit Quick
lein	
	Jane W. Stilmar
ı	Linda W. Thomas
	Elaine R. Wolfson

Bruce M. Fleming

#### **♦♦ NEW CLUB MASTERS**

Gretta E. Bordcosh Ramsey E. Bordcosh Sherry R. Bortnick James Eaton Joyce M. Farley Joseph A. Faudale Beth Fricano Janelle L. Gmitter Ann K. Hunter play by Nora M. Klein John H. Merold Chuck Mitchell Rosamond L. Niemeyer Reginald Newell Henry C. Ruempler Inayat Taj Tamara Vetter Jim Zhong

#### **♦♦ NEW SECTIONAL MASTERS ♣♥**

Ioan H. Axilbund Anne B. Harrington Eiji Ishida Hank L. Lavender John E. Metzler Duncan Thompson Gail Wollenberg



#### **♦♦ NEW REGIONAL MASTERS ♥**

Wayne B. Bardsley Brian G. Brunsvold Kathy Dunkerley Phyllis E. Hendler Sharon C. Perryman Maryann G. Quill Howard B. Stevens Dottie E. Terrell

#### **♦♦ NEW NABC MASTERS ♥**

Dr. John R. Adams William Glen Thomas Herzog Shirley E. Prikals

Benazir Ghaussy Sidney Y. Graves Margie Mastran

Jeremy Billones

Patricia L. Cook

Ken Kimball

Carol T. Goldstone

Donald M. Szyszka

#### **♦♦ NEW LIFE MASTERS ♣♥**

Carolyn W. Baird Phyllis R. Isler Paul J. Setzer

Morton L. Isler Jan Rusu

#### **♦♦ NEW BRONZE LIFE MASTERS ♣♥**

William B. DeGraf Michael Gottesman Jerry Nolte Dr. Tony Robson

Suellen P. Garrison Elizabeth Nolte Jack W. Rakowski Dr. Joyce Wiley

#### **♦♦ NEW SILVER LIFE MASTERS ♣♥**

Barbara A. DiCicco Alan S. Dockterman Robert L. Finkelstein Deborah A. Hoveland Susan C. Slattery

#### **♦♦ NEW GOLD LIFE MASTERS ♣♥**

Diane Alexander Ronald H. Drevfus Dick Pellerin

Bob Boyd Dr. Hal Hindman Robert E. Zier

**♦♦ NEW DIAMOND LIFE MASTERS ♣♥** Stan S. Schenker

# BRIDGE IN SCHOOLS THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR VOLUNTEERS

Do you remember a teacher or educator that had an influence on your life? Each of the volunteers below has had an opportunity to be that person in someone's life. We celebrate all of the volunteers who have helped us with the Bridge in Schools program this year. I am sure we will miss a name or two but please know that every single hour that was donated was appreciated. It does take at least 10 volunteers for each school program. If you have one hour a month (or even one hour a school year!) we need you.

Contact Sheryl McEwan at sherylmcewan@aol.com to volunteer.

A round of applause for: (in no particular order)

Suzanne Abrams Jerry Nolte Craig Olson Peggy Comerford Ron Kral Jenny Shaefer Margie Mastran Michael Osbourne Robert Finkelstein Susan Miskura Lee Harp Ed Taborek Hank Lavender Jim Gerding Neal McKinney Carolyn Baird Terry Jones Stephen Drodge Betty Nolte Tobi Bear Yuen DeAnda Bill Hume Paul Setzer Dennis Schwanz Walt Pumo Asim Mandal Linda Burton Fred Gramlich Livingston Johnson Leo Cardillo Mark Terrell Ann Atcheson David Street Joe Hertz Carl Noller Alan Dockterman William DeGraf Janice Pumo Sheryl McEwan Marvin Raines

#### NVBA Sponsored a Bridge in Schools Program For 7th Graders at Key Middle School on June 11

On June 11, Jim Gerding, Sheryl McEwan and Jim Gerding got the use of the library at Key Middle School for the entire day and every current 7th grader taking math got a bridge lesson for almost 2 hours. By the end of the day almost 200 thirteen year olds were actually PLAYING bridge. Yuen de Anda had 5 or 6 of the boys from the NNVBA-supported Bridge Club at Garfield Elementary School there for the day, and they were "coaches" and filled in at the tables. NVBA provided money for their lunches. Jim Gerding taught bridge all day, as the students rotated through the library during their math class period. Most kids thought it was a fun event. Yuen had bookmarks with bridge basics for each student. All of the students were invited to play on Tuesday nights at the Sunrise Assisted Living Center a few blocks from the school. Jim Gerding will be teaching there from 6:30 – 8:00 pm each week (at NO COST). Bridge for all ages scores again!

# Bridge – Lifetime Learning! Remembering our Special Teachers

hat a wonderful game bridge is. It is amazing how many people I have met through bridge, both locally and around the world through tournaments and cruises. It is so rewarding to see the camaraderie that bridge has brought to people of all ages and cultures. And for every bridge player I meet, there is at least one bridge teacher or mentor who has been a major influence in encouraging that player to learn and grow. Sometimes that bridge teacher has been a formal classroom teacher, and sometimes it has been that special friend or family member who cared enough to spend some time sharing their love of the game and imparting their own words of wisdom. Either way, the passion for bridge is passed on to new players every day through the work of dedicated teachers.

It is not necessary to be a formal, accredited teacher or bridge professional in order to teach bridge, although that is certainly a commendable achievement. There are many levels of learning, and many ways that bridge players can serve as teachers, mentors, role models, partners, coaches, etc. to help others learn. How can you serve as a teacher? Who can you help learn to play? You may be surprised to see how much influence you have on others in helping them with their bridge.

If you think back to how you learned to play bridge, I'm sure you will think of one or more people who helped you to take those first baby steps, take those first few lessons, encouraging you not to give up when everything is a bit overwhelming and confusing, inviting you to your first duplicate game, showing you how bidding boxes work and why you can't just say 1 • out loud, helping you to understand when a bid could not be passed, and when a bid must be passed, helping you to take it in stride when an opponent cries out, "Director!!!!" and you have no idea why, teaching you to politely raise your hand and say, "Director, please," helping you to celebrate those first hard-won master points, and encouraging you to keep coming back to the games even when everything seems quite intimidating. Most importantly, a good teacher encourages you to have fun with the game, not take it too seriously, and keep learning and growing.

I can think back on several people who were instrumental in encouraging me to learn to play bridge. I grew up on Air Force bases, watching my parents play at home or at the Officer's Club, but I never learned the game from them. When dad was home, they would play couples bridge in the evenings. When dad was away on alert or TDYs or in Viet Nam, my mom would play with the ladies and have nice bridge lunches. Bridge games always meant a good time at our home, with the parents playing bridge and all the kids having fun together.

But bridge always seemed too confusing and mysterious to me, so I let several decades go by without learning how to play. Now I wish I had learned when I was young! Think of how many fun years of bridge I missed! Well, better late than never. Over the years, my

mother kept mentioning bridge to me and telling me how much she thought I would enjoy the game. But I was always too busy... Finally, she said that she would pay for lessons if I would just give it a try. So then, well into my 40s, I signed up for a bridge class. My first teacher was an elderly gentleman who was very frail and died a few weeks into the class. But he loved the game so much that he continued to teach until he could no longer do so. I'm so sorry I don't remember his name, but I do remember the most important lesson he taught, that it is much more important to think about and understand what the bids mean and why so that you do not have to memorize rules and rigid guidelines. This was very intriguing to me as it gave me hope that there might be some logic to this confusing game. Even though his class only lasted a few sessions, I was interested now and wanted to find a new class.

As if by magic, I got a postcard in the mail about an *EasyBridge!* class that would be taught by Sam McMillan and Wes Jones. Many of you knew Sam, who unfortunately passed away a couple of years ago. Sam and Wes worked hard to reach out to new bridge players in the area, and had quite a thriving *EasyBridge!* class going over at the Mitre Corporation employee cafeteria. I remember Sam explaining that it took 26 points for game in a major, but hey, if you've got 25, close enough! Thanks, Sam!

Eventually I gathered enough courage to start going to duplicate games. I remember how Norma Pierzchala would go out of her way to help newer players. She ran a novice game on Saturday mornings, which is still going strong even though the master point limit is no longer just for novices. She even came over to my house and explained Negative Doubles to my partner and me, a wonderful lesson I will never forget. Norma is not teaching as much now as she used to, but she still always makes time to help and encourage newer players.

It is thanks to my mother that I took bridge lessons. She is my favorite bridge partner, and I have learned so much from her. We love to play together whenever we can, which unfortunately is not very often, since my parents live in Tennessee.

But the most amazing teacher and mentor I have had is my father, who cared enough to sit down and write a letter to me when I had been playing bridge for a year or so, and of course thought I knew everything. The letter is a treasure; his advice is priceless. I am honored to share his letter with you, which he carefully and painstakingly typed out on a manual typewriter and mailed to me after I had visited them and we had played many bridge hands around the kitchen table. Apparently I had gone down more than once after failing to pull trump...

#### Dear Terry Lynn,

I love it that you are playing bridge. I also love playing with you as my partner, and would like to point out certain rules and generalities that took me a long time to understand. These can be overlooked in some cases; however, not in very many and only by well-defined reasons.

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#### **NVBA** Newsletter

Bridge-Lifetime Learning - continued from page 17

#### BIDDING:

A no trump or major suit contract is better than a minor suit contract, because of fewer trick requirements. However, circumstances may dictate otherwise.

A gambling 3NT may be better than 5 of a minor. Plus the score is the same or higher for fewer tricks.

Have an understanding with your partner about opening requirements – third hand light, how about fourth hand, vulnerable/not-vulnerable, overcalling or doubling. You do not have to have a stopper in every unbid suit to bid NT if you have a powerful hand, 16 points or more.

Do not overcall with less than a five card suit.

Be extra careful when the opponents open or overcall 1NT.

#### PLAY:

GET TRUMPS IN (Editor's note – this is his way of saying "pull trump") EARLY IN THE PLAY AS DECLARER.

In NT, try to set up your long suit while you have stoppers in the other suits.

*In suit and NT play, watch for a suit to accidentally set up, i.e., left hand opponent leads jack, queen off board, ace or king from right hand opponent, etc. All of a sudden, 7, 8, 9 or 10s may set up.* 

Be careful playing a hand when an opponent has opened with a pre-empt. Strange distribution is very possible.

#### GET THE TRUMPS IN.

While defending, return your partners opening lead, or if they lead an Ace, suggesting and Ace/king holding and then shift to another suit, lead that suit for possible trump by partner. This may not always work, but it sure keeps your partner HAPPY.

*Take setting trick if you have it, even if it sets up dummy. (Not like I did the other night.)* 

Trumps in.

It is not generally good defense to make an opening lead of a singleton trump. It is sometimes ok if you hold two or more cards in trumps.

Trumps in.

Watch entries to get back and forth from dummy to hand. Sometimes the correct timing of these entries can be very important.

Some contracts bid cannot be made. Get your trumps in and do not let opponents trump an otherwise good trick. Going down one is much better than going down two, etc.

There are a lot of other good rules and techniques out there. However, these are the ones that helped me the most, and I certainly enjoy playing bridge more if I follow them myself. I sometimes have trouble doing that. Your mother and I wish you the greatest success and happiness with your bridge and future activities.

All my love, Dad

#### Page 19

My father is having his 79th birthday this July, and he still plays duplicate bridge every week with my mother. What wonderful lessons they have taught me.

So I say thank you to all who have been my teachers, and I encourage everyone reading this to reach out and thank those who were your teachers and mentors.

And then I ask you to extend a hand to others to help them learn and grow as a bridge player. You can do this at any level that is comfortable for you -- as an accredited teacher with an ongoing group of students, as a volunteer with the Bridge in Schools program, as a mentor to newer players, or simply by being a good role model at the bridge table, being polite and welcoming to others, and willing to answer questions from less experienced players.

If you are interested in becoming an accredited teacher, there are ACBL Teacher's Accreditation Programs being offered at every national. The American Bridge Teachers Association (ABTA) offers an annual conference (held this year at the Spring NABC in Memphis, but normally held at the Summer NABC) with continuing education programs and networking opportunities, which, along with ABTA's online resources, help provide teachers with the latest tools and materials. I am currently serving as the North Atlantic Regional Director for ABTA, and would be happy to provide you with more information about any of the teaching programs.

Bridge - Lifetime Learning! Remembering our special teachers, and reaching out to others. Together, we can make a difference and help preserve bridge for future generations.

Terry Jones, NVBA Education Chair terry@fallschurchbridgeclub.com









# **NVBA** Newsletter

#### **NVBA BRIDGE CLUB WEBSITES:**

*Director:* Mike Zane – *Games:* Beth El – Sunday, 1:00 PM; Montebello – Monday, 7:00 PM <u>http://clubresults.acbl.org/getClubs.php</u>

*Director:* Carole Grob – *Game:* KOCH – Monday, 10:00 AM http://mybridgeclub.com

*Director:* Livingston Johnson – *Game:* Ox Road DBC –Tuesday, 10:30 http://clubresults.acbl.org/getClubs.php

*Director:* Terry Jones – *Game:* Falls Church Bridge Club – Saturday, 7:00 p.m. <u>http://www.fallschurchbridgeclub.com</u>

*Directors:* Candy and Marshall Kuschner – *Games:* KOCH – Tuesday, 10:00 AM; Reston – Wednesday, 7:30 PM <u>http://clubresults.acbl.org/getClubs.php</u>

*Director:* Bernie Oetjen – *Games:* KOCH – Monday, 7:00 PM; KOCH – Saturday, 1:00 PM http://clubresults.acbl.org/getClubs.php

*Director:* Norma Pierzchala – *Games:* Norma's Game – KOCH – Thursday, 10:00 AM; Norma's Game – KOCH – Saturday, 9:00 AM <u>http://clubresults.acbl.org/getClubs.php</u>

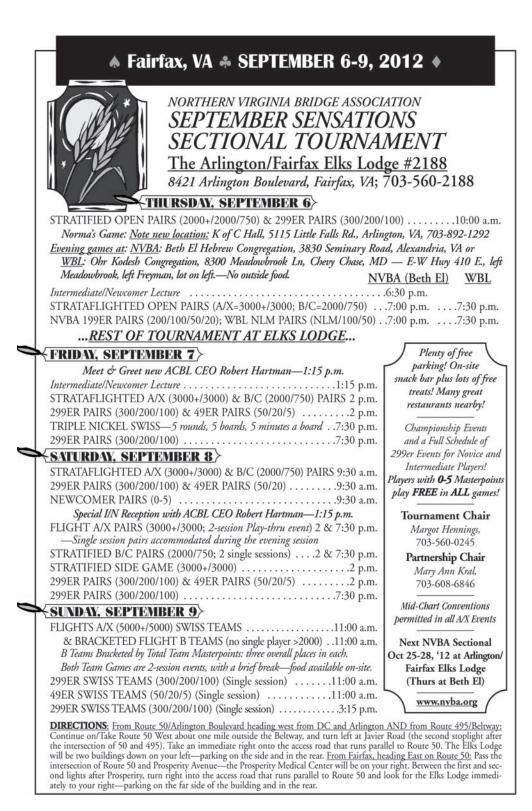
*Director:* Gene Schuyler – *Games:* JCC of No. VA – Tuesday, 7:15 PM; Arlington DBC – Wednesday, 10:00 AM; Friday Bridge – Friday, 10:00 AM http://www.geneschuyler.com/

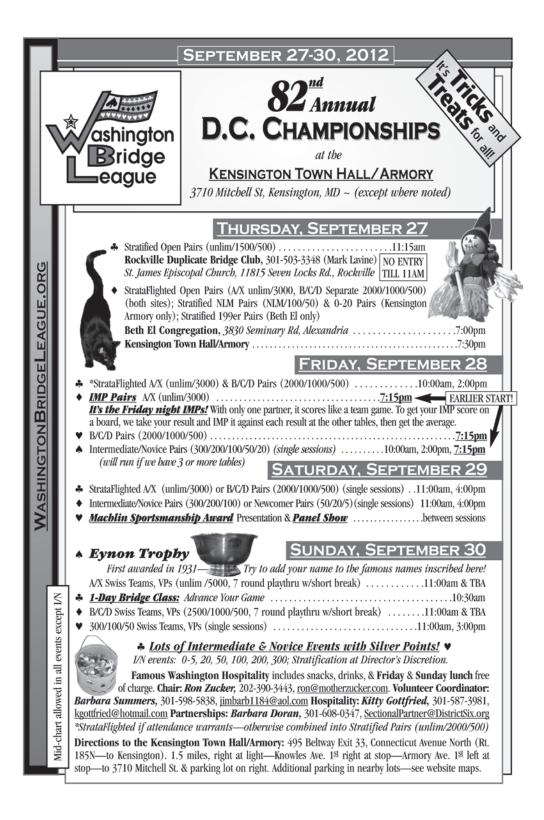
*Director:* Louise Sellers – *Games:* JCC of No. VA – Wednesday, 11:00 AM; Vienna DBC – Thursday, 10:30 AM <u>http://clubresults.acbl.org/getClubs.php</u>

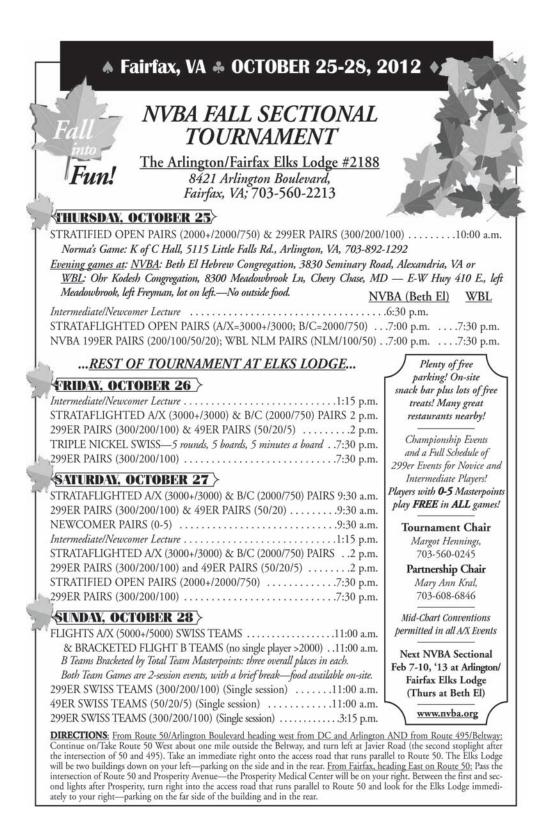
*Director:* LenoreWard – *Games:* Cascade Seniors – Monday, 11:00 AM, Thursday, 1:00 PM <u>http://clubresults.acbl.org/getClubs.php</u>

GAME WITH NO WEBSITE

*Director:* Marilyn Golias – *Game:* Bridge Club of Northern Virginia – Sunday, 2:00 PM; Various locations in the Northern Virginia area; *Tel:* 703-629-8932; *Email:* double7nt@aol.com







# Northern Virginia Bridge Association 10015 Manor Place, Fairfax, VA 22032

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